

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 25, 2009. Claims 1 to 20 and 22 remain pending in the application, with Claim 21 having been canceled. Claims 1, 20 and 22 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, it is nonetheless believed to be obviated by the cancellation of Claim 21.

Claims 1 to 8, 10, 12 and 17 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0126322 (Kadowaki), Claims 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kadowaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,823,459 (Horikoshi), Claims 13 and 14 to 16 were rejected under § 103(a) over Kadowaki in view of U.S. Patent No. JP 2002-312429 (Shinichi), and Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under § 103(a) over Kadowaki. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention generally relates to utilizing personalized service setting information associated with the operator of an image reading apparatus for performing various types of printing operations. Generally, a user inserts a personalized IC card into a reader of the image reading device. Personalized services set in the IC card for the user are then displayed for the operator to select a type of service to be performed in image data read by the reading apparatus. When the operator selects a service from among the available personalized services, image data is transmitted to another device for output thereby.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an image reading apparatus arranged to connect, via a network, to a plurality of external services, each of which provides a service for processing image data generated in the image reading apparatus, the image reading apparatus comprising an image reading unit configured to read an image on an original document and generate image data corresponding to the read image, an acquiring unit configured to acquire personalized service information, the personalized service information being associated with each of operators and with each of the external services, and being used for ordering a service from one of the external services, a personalizing unit configured to personalize a setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of setting for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information, and a transmitting unit configured to transmit various settings based on the setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of setting personalized for the operator by said personalizing unit, together with the generated image data via the network to an external service selected by the operator.

Claims 20 and 22 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 20 and 22, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of an image reading apparatus i) acquiring personalized service information, the personalized service information being associated with each of operators and with each of external services, and being used for ordering a service from one of the external services, ii) personalizing a setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of setting for the operator according to the acquired personalized

service information, and iii) transmitting various settings based on the setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of setting personalized for the operator by the personalizing, together with generated image data via the network to an external service selected by the operator.

Kadowaki is merely seen to disclose an image processing apparatus which realizes individual setting for each user based on individual setting information corresponding to a user ID, when the user performs facsimile transmission. Kadowaki acquires individual setting information from a server through a network, and that information is then utilized by the internal facsimile function. Thus, Kadowaki is not seen to teach the external services of the invention, and in particular, is not seen to teach at least the features of an image reading apparatus i) acquiring personalized service information, the personalized service information being associated with each of operators and with each of external services, and being used for ordering a service from one of the external services, ii) personalizing a setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of setting for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information, and iii) transmitting various settings based on the setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of setting personalized for the operator by the personalizing, together with generated image data via the network to an external service selected by the operator.

Horikoshi is not seen to make up for the deficiencies of Kadowaki. In this regard, Horikoshi is merely seen to disclose the use of an RFID system in which, when an RFID device that does not have access authorization passes through a portal gate, a tamper bit signal is changed. However, Horikoshi is not seen to relate to the field of the invention, and is not seen to teach anything that, when combined with Kadowaki, would have resulted

in the features of an image reading apparatus i) acquiring personalized service information, the personalized service information being associated with each of operators and with each of external services, and being used for ordering a service from one of the external services, ii) personalizing a setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of setting for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information, and iii) transmitting various settings based on the setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of setting personalized for the operator by the personalizing, together with generated image data via the network to an external service selected by the operator.

Shinici is merely seen to teach the use of personalized information for ordering a bookbinding service of a diary. However, Shinici is not seen to teach anything that, when combined with Kadowaki and/or Horikoshi, would have resulted in the features of an image reading apparatus i) acquiring personalized service information, the personalized service information being associated with each of operators and with each of external services, and being used for ordering a service from one of the external services, ii) personalizing a setting screen, a setting procedure, and contents of setting for the operator according to the acquired personalized service information, and iii) transmitting various settings based on the setting screen, setting procedure, and contents of setting personalized for the operator by the personalizing, together with generated image data via the network to an external service selected by the operator.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, amended independent Claims 1, 20 and 22, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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